

# Medicine and Books

## Introduction to oncology

*Cancer Therapy*. Ed David S Fischer and John C Marsh, with the technical assistance of Marion E Morra. (Pp 749; \$69.95.) G K Hall. 1982.

The list of publications on oncology is expanding rapidly, with over 80 titles in one bookshop in 1982. *Cancer Therapy* was born of a series of lectures given at the Connecticut hospitals, with additional material provided by the editors. The text is aimed at general physicians, house staff, medical students, oncology nurses, and physician's associates—in fact, everyone except the oncologist. Towards the end of the preface, the editors “come clean” and say that their house officers and senior students had asked for an introductory treatise; I think that they unconsciously aimed at this readership. The arrangement of the book was somewhat irritating: 69 chapters averaged 10 pages each, the chapter on follow up had only two pages of text followed by several proformas. This made the book rather patchy, and I got the impression of “padding” with lists of addresses of study groups, a mini pharmacopoeia of oncological drugs, a very curious table of normal values that includes such things as digoxin concentrations, and finally a “cookbook” list of chemotherapy regimens. All this information is readily available elsewhere.

In general, I found the approach was lightweight and disappointing—for example, the introduction to radiotherapy gives an account of the production of x rays, but there is little discussion of the particle beams or of intracavitary radiation. These are mentioned in chapters on specific tumours but on the assumption that the reader has been introduced to such modes of treatment. Large pictures of apparatus with solemn doctors “doing things” are really not helpful: the cost of the half tones could have been better used elsewhere. There is no discussion of autologous marrow transplantation or of viral infection. Eukaryotic oncogenes are now familiar enough to be included in a chapter on carcinogenesis. Infertility is often a consequence of chemotherapy for Hodgkin's disease and cryopreservation of sperm is now offered in some centres; this option is not discussed. It is right to insist on obtaining positive histological results before starting treatment but it is equally right to exhort clinicians not to blindly accept negative or inconsistent results. Where the clinical picture is not consistent with pathological findings, a more thorough search is indicated. It was a pity not to discuss the time course of metastases; perhaps the well known teaching about the patient with a glass eye and a big liver was thought sufficient. Why are drostanolone, trilostane, and medroxyprogesterone missing from the discussions on the hormonal treatment of breast cancer? If the authors do not find them useful it would be helpful to know why. The use of cyclophosphamide in conditions other than malignancy comes under strong attack: if no other treatment can be offered, say for Wegener's granulomatosis, then surely it is right to use the drug? We are now in a position to know that acrolein, the breakdown product of cyclophosphamide that seems to be the cause of haemorrhagic cystitis, may be neutralised by giving sodium 2-mercaptoethanesulphonate. I found the statement that gastric cancer has a predilection for patients with acanthosis nigricans and dermatomyositis difficult to understand; the reverse seems to me to be true. Surprisingly, this chapter includes no discussion of “ulcer cancer.”

Several references to the cost of treatment include one in-

teresting idea for funding a parenteral nutrition team by a surcharge on each litre of fluid. Such references seem out of place to British physicians, but we ought really to take as much notice of these factors as our American colleagues. Another interesting idea was that of a “living will,” which a patient may sign to indicate his desire to be allowed to die with dignity “if the situation should arise in which there is no reasonable expectation of recovery.” Chapter 12 gives a rather entertaining account of what are kindly called “unproved” methods. There was a note of depressing therapeutic impotence in the chapters on cancers of the upper gastrointestinal tract. It is my belief that an acceptance of impotence has in the past held back the study of cancer and its treatment, leading to the view that if it can't be cut out, the patient should be left to die in peace. In cancer treatment we must be optimistic and forward looking.

I do not believe that British physicians lie to their patients about a diagnosis of cancer, as the authors say. Most British physicians would not, I think, share the authors' enthusiasm for biennial sigmoidoscopies and annual rectal examination with examination of stools for occult blood.

The book is well produced and printed in double columns that are easy to read. References are full and include many from 1980. I would not buy this book now, though I may have felt it useful at an earlier stage. The price (about £45 at today's exchange rates) is rather high for an introductory text.

F J WOODROFFE

## Specialist subjects for paediatricians

*Butterworths International Medical Reviews*. “Pediatrics 1.” “Hematology and Oncology.” Ed Michael Willoughby and Stuart E Siegel. (Pp 306; £15; subscription price £10.50.) Butterworths. 1982.

The editors of the first review in a new Butterworths' series have assembled authors from America and Europe to cover a wide range of topics with emphasis on the red cell, bleeding disorders, and leukaemia. The contributions vary widely in length and depth, and in general the book would have benefited from more editorial direction and pruning. I enjoyed Peschle's review of stem cells and progenitor cells but fear that the non-haematologist would be discouraged from extending his knowledge by the jargon of the cell-culture world—a simple introduction to the terminology would have eased the reader's path. On the other hand, all paediatricians are concerned with psychosocial aspects of chronic disease yet this chapter is confined to a brief review of the problems of children with cancer and haemophilia, without mention, for example, of sickle-cell disease.

The best chapter is that on antenatal diagnosis of inherited haematological disorders by Modell and Mibashan which combines obstetric technique, the theoretical background to diagnosis, assessment of risks and results, and a sensitive discussion of the selection of patients for screening. Although the chapter is chiefly confined to disorders of haemoglobin

synthesis and haemophilias, the authors discuss the wider applications of screening and point to future advances that may obviate the need for fetal blood sampling. Ortega covers treatment of these two groups of disorders in a clear and pragmatic account on the management of iron overload, and there is a short chapter on home treatment of haemophilia, marred by five pages of wordy tables. Stockman's detailed review of neonatal erythropoiesis culminates logically in discussion of the factors the decision to transfuse a neonate entail. Having struggled to apply the recommended nomogram, which takes account of six physiological variables, I was relieved to read that this provided no substitute for clinical judgment.

Perhaps the two most timely reviews are those on thrombocytopenic purpura and the histiocytic disorders. Management of the child with chronic idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura remains a thorny problem and Karpatkin lays down clear, if rather active, guidelines. The chapter by Ladisch on histiocytosis is an overdue reminder that these conditions are poorly understood, that histiocytosis X is not a neoplastic disease, and that virus infections may mimic malignant histiocytosis. The obligatory chapter on bone-marrow transplantation comes from Leiden, with interesting emphasis on prevention, diagnosis, and management of infection; immunological recovery after transplantation; and the role of bone-marrow transplantation in non-leukaemic disorders.

Unfortunately, the cover of oncological topics is not as balanced or comprehensive. Lymphoblastic leukaemia receives the lion's share of space, most of the introductory chapter on multidisciplinary treatment being devoted to prognostic factors and a subsequent section to immunological classification, both well-worn topics albeit covered clearly. A third chapter is devoted to a long and detailed review on extramedullary leukaemia: Pearson's general chapter on radiotherapy in paediatric oncology completes the selection. One or two contributions on the state of the art in management of specific solid tumours would surely have been of general interest.

The book as a whole, however, makes interesting reading and it will not overstretch the departmental budget.

JUDITH M CHESSELLS

## X-ray examination of hollow organs

*Essentials of Gastrointestinal Radiology.* Bronwyn Jones and John M Braver. (Pp 215; £14.95.) W B Saunders. 1982.

A book bearing the title "Essentials of" is clearly meant to be an introduction to the subject. The fly sheet of *Essentials of Gastrointestinal Radiology* emphasises this with the dedication "For all the residents who have cried abjectly 'But isn't there a small book on GI?'" The book is organised unconventionally. Instead of dealing with each organ in separate chapters the authors have chosen to divide the book into disease processes. Thus the chapter devoted to neoplasms describes the radiographic appearances using illustrations of characteristic findings in various organs to emphasise the points. It is apparent that many lesions have a recognisable appearance in whatever organ they are found, and, though open to criticism, this approach works well in an introductory text.

The approach is more suitable for the hollow organs than the solid ones and in fact the book's emphasis is very much on the hollow organs and barium studies. Only one chapter (15 pages) concerns itself with the liver and pancreas, and here the coverage falls short of the essentials and becomes very sketchy. To some extent this, together with a limited reference to other imaging modalities (ultrasound and nuclear medicine in particular), rather spoils the book for me. This criticism

apart, the book is packed with useful and practical information and fulfils its function well. I really had to search to find statements with which I disagreed, and even then the differences in opinion were relatively minor.

As the book was intended for "neophytes" I asked three first year registrars for their views. To a man they enjoyed it, learnt from it, and found it very readable. The emphasis on single contrast studies was a surprise to them as they are already firmly brainwashed into the double contrast faith. They also found some of the illustrations too small and a little hard to interpret. More arrows, etc, would have helped here. At £14.95 they thought it good value.

To have tried to make this book adequate in organ imaging, paediatric radiology, etc, would have destroyed its object as it would no longer be a "small book." The only problem is therefore to think of a snappy title for a book which should be called "Essentials of adult hollow organ gastrointestinal radiology with a brief introduction to other imaging methods and the solid organs." How about "Essentials of gastrointestinal radiology"?

The authors, one from Johns Hopkins and one from Harvard, have set out to fill a gap and in general terms have succeeded very well.

R A WILKINS

## Expansion of nuclear medicine

*Oxford Medical Publications.* "Computed Emission Tomography." P J Ell and B L Holman. (Pp 546; £50.) Oxford University Press. 1982.

The tremendous expansion of imaging technology in the past few years has made a major impact on clinical practice, particularly in diagnosis. Developments in nuclear medicine have been no exception, with the rapid progress in radiation detector technology, the stream of new radio pharmaceuticals, and the remarkable developments in information processing. The whole specialty of nuclear medicine is now so complex and vast that it is exceedingly difficult for the practising physician to follow new developments and to get an adequate perspective of the value and clinical applicability of the ever increasing number of new technologies. Computed emission tomography is the latest arrival, and Dr Ell and Dr Holman have produced a multiple author textbook to clarify the present position of this new technique. With the help of their collaborators, all experts in their own specialty, they have achieved a well balanced text, which aims at covering all the new complex and difficult techniques, make them intelligible, and put them into their proper context.

The book is divided into two sections, one dealing with positron computed tomography, the other with single photon computed tomography. Positron computed tomography is a highly sensitive physiological method of studying metabolic function and blood flow, particularly in the brain and heart. The capacity of this technique to provide important measurements is remarkable and although the technique is complex and difficult to apply in clinical practice the data obtained are most impressive and helpful in clarifying many pathophysiological processes. It is quite plain from the discussion in some of the chapters that this method of investigation is still a research technique and not yet applicable in day to day practice. In this section instrumentation and radio pharmaceuticals labelled with positron emitting isotopes are well covered. There follow some clinical chapters on heart and brain and physiological measurements and a section to cover the application of this technique in the widest possible sense.

Single photon computed tomography is a more adaptable and simpler method that may be used for imaging but is more valuable in the study of pathophysiology. Images are better

obtained by other techniques—particularly with modern equipment—such as CT scanning or even nuclear magnetic resonance. It is not yet clear whether this new technique is adaptable to all types of clinical work and ultimately will overtake some other methods of study: at present most of the imaging techniques appear complementary and by no means exclusive. Several chapters compare the values of the varying techniques and their efficiency; some of the conclusions are erroneous as the results are not comparing like with like and the assessment must depend very much on the quality of the equipment and to some extent even on the operators. This becomes even more obvious in a textbook, which inevitably lags behind some more recent advances, and where comments of comparison may be out of date by the time the book appears in print: a good example of such a misleading statement appears in table 19:3.

The individual chapters in the second part of the book are very comprehensive, again covering instrumentation and receptor specific radio pharmaceuticals; several clinical sections are based on the considerable personal experience of the individual authors. They deal with blood flow; space occupying lesions of the brain; pathological conditions of the liver, spleen, the heart, and the lungs as well as giving a critical analysis of clinical applications.

I found the book interesting, informative, and of considerable value in appreciating these interesting and expanding areas of nuclear medicine. The illustrations have been well selected and there are extensive references to all chapters for those interested in immersing themselves in the subject. This valuable textbook will help the clinician to appreciate and put into perspective the diagnostic and physiological capability of computed emission tomography.

R E STEINER

## Craniofacial surgery

*The Craniosynostoses: Causes, Natural History, and Management.* David John David, David Poswillo, and Donald Simpson. (Pp 331; 158 figures; DM 220; approx \$91.80.) Springer. 1982.

Craniofacial surgery developed as a branch of reconstructive surgery some 15 years ago, when Paul Tessier reported his work with congenital deformities. Since then, the merging of neurosurgical exposures with plastic surgical techniques has allowed more efficient surgical management of some tumours of the skull base and has enabled several groups of congenital and traumatic problems previously dealt with fairly inadequately, if at all, to be corrected comprehensively.

One such group is the craniosynostoses; this book is a detailed study of that group and does not attempt to cover any of the other conditions dealt with in craniofacial units. Much of the information in the book is based on the personal experience of the authors and has been collected over 25 years' neurosurgical experience in Adelaide, South Australia, and also about seven years' work of the South Australian craniofacial unit. The authors discuss their own method of managing each type of deformity caused by craniosynostoses and also review the work of others, giving a general idea of the current state of knowledge in each section.

The text is nicely set out in four parts. The first deals well with growth of the skull and face, a particularly difficult topic, and with aetiology and pathogenesis of craniosynostoses and the consequent deformities. The second section is concerned with symptomatology and the principles of investigation and treatment. The third and fourth sections cover in detail the individual cranial and craniofacial deformities caused by the various forms of craniosynostoses. The authors present not only their own experience but also the work of others, generally, but not always, accurately and completely. There are particularly useful sections

on the clinical course of the problem in untreated patients and on expectant treatment. In most parts the results and complications of surgical treatment are covered well.

An appendix at the end of the book lists syndromes involving craniosynostoses and describes the features of each syndrome. The extensive bibliography is referred to in the text, and there are numerous black and white photographs throughout the book and many nice clear diagrams.

Craniofacial surgery is carried out in special units with appropriate facilities and experience, and the type of surgery described in this book to correct these deformities is certainly not going to come the way of most plastic surgeons or neurosurgeons. Apart from those surgeons managing these problems directly, however, the book should also be a valuable reference source for many other plastic surgeons, neurosurgeons, paediatricians, and other medical personnel who occasionally come in contact with these patients.

In summary, the book succeeds in what it sets out to do; it is a good read and—apart from its expense—has few faults.

M D POOLE

## Urinary problems in practice

*Library of General Practice.* Vol 4. "Renal Medicine and Urology." David Brooks and Netar Mallick. (Pp 294; £8.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1982.

David Brooks, a general practitioner and associate regional adviser in general practice in Manchester, has a particular interest in urinary problems and has written widely on the subject; he has co-operated with Netar Mallick, physician in charge of the department of renal medicine at Manchester Royal Infirmary, to produce the fourth in the series *Library of General Practice* on "Renal medicine and urology."

As the title suggests, the book is directed mainly to general practice, but it would also make admirable reading for medical students and trainees. The opening chapter deals in simple terms with the structure and function of the kidney, describing the physiology and pathophysiology of the renal tract. The chapters on diagnosis and common presentations in general practice were of particular interest, especially the four levels at which diagnoses are made—namely, symptom and syndrome, anatomically and causally defined. For someone concerned about the standard of medical records in general practice, the short paragraph on record keeping was most welcome. Urinary infections, an appreciable cause of morbidity in practice was dealt with fully and well. I wondered how many general practitioners have an incubator for culturing urine in their practices? The widespread use of dip slides and the generally excellent service from most laboratories perhaps makes this unnecessary. The author pays attention to the importance of urinary infections in children and to the effect of vesicoureteric reflux on the growing kidney.

The short concise chapter on renal calculi was easily understood and helpful.

The use of the term "chronic interstitial nephritis" in place of pyelonephritis gives a much better impression of the disease process. This short chapter, with the next on the nephritic and nephrotic syndrome, made straightforward and understandable reading.

The aetiology, pathogenesis, and management of benign prostatic hypertrophy—one of the commonest urological conditions seen in general practice—was well and fully described.

The discussion on chronic renal failure divided the failure into three stages—mild, with glomerular filtration rate of 30-10 ml/min; moderate, with a rate of 10-5 ml/min; and the stage below 5 ml/min, when dialysis has to be considered. The descriptions of dialysis and transplantation were well written.

Latent foci of carcinoma of the prostate, found in 30% of men over 50, is the commonest tumour in men. The discussion of management, particularly the controversy surrounding the use of oestrogen and its dosage, was clear. Bladder cancer is seen to be far more occupationally determined than was thought—even cigarette smoking is implicated. Testicular and renal cancer were mentioned clearly and briefly.

The discussion of imperfect testicular descent, with a request for earlier referral, is welcome, as is the short description of torsion of the testicle and its management. I hope the paragraph on the development of the prepuce and causes of paraphimosis will prevent parents being given advice to stretch the foreskin of infants and toddlers.

The common congenital anomalies are briefly and clearly dealt with.

The careful discussion on urinary incontinence reflects the authors' concern and interest in the condition: of particular interest were the notes given at the end of the chapter of where help for incontinents and their relatives may be obtained. This problem needs more attention in the community, with perhaps the employment of expert incontinence nurses.

The final two chapters on hypertension and the kidney and fluid and electrolyte balance and diuretic treatment are most helpful and informative.

Finally, the idea of being asked questions at the end of a book on what you have read is novel and must appeal to students and trainees.

JOHN G DAVIES

## Focus on the nervous system

*Recent Advances in Neuropathology*. No 2. Ed W Thomas Smith and J B Cavanagh. (Pp 301; £23.) Churchill Livingstone. 1982.

A new book on neuropathology is exciting, especially if it is likely to attract readers other than just neuropathologists. What then are the stated aims of this one? From the preface: "Continuous need for reviews on the growing points . . . current explosion of basic neurobiological research . . . the monoclonal revolution." This second volume, reasonably priced at £23 for 301 pages, 11 topics, up to date references, and index, follows three years after the first by the same editors for £19. The editors achieved something better than in many hasty publications of what has been said at conferences or meetings—"proceedings." Publications on recent advances fall between journal articles and a book. When, as in this instance, the references are good, the interest of the various topics will vary with the different readers.

The first edition (with different topics) was described as: "informative and sometimes provocative." The extent of research into the nervous system is inexhaustible, and here it moves from basic immunohistological progress via a chemists' rendering of what is alarmingly referred to as the neuronal cytoskeleton to an excellent chapter on myelination, demyelination, and remyelination in the central nervous system. The chapter reflects the authors' long experimental experience with myelin problems. Oehmichen has contributed—also from long experience—a study on functional properties of microglia, but there is no discussion of the microglia in the so called senile or argyrophilic or Alzheimer's plaques. There are other odd omissions, such as no reference to Strich's chapter on cerebral trauma in the third edition (1976) of Greenfield's *Neuropathology*. The advances in cerebral trauma—except perhaps for an animal model of closed "non-missile" head injuries that has evolved in the 'seventies—are not all that recent or advancing. It is nevertheless very good to read of the origins, in the 'twenties, of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and also of the current activities and thoughts on the subject, led by a group that includes a Nobel prize winner (Gajdusek). That chapter concludes with a timely

protest against the so called dangers—for example, "There is no reason for a neurosurgeon to refuse to perform a brain biopsy," or "Similarly, there is no reason why an autopsy should be refused on the grounds of a clinical diagnosis . . .", and "There is no evidence that histopathologists and laboratory technicians are at increased risk of developing Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in spite of their handling of tissues (previously without special precautions) for at least 40 years." These matters may relate to the old fashioned concepts of the importance of the care for the sick, but that chapter also deals with the basic scientific stuff. Other chapters—for example, on how the rectum may fail to hold, or how the ventricles expand—will be read by those with a special interest in the topics: not everybody's cup of tea.

It may be overoptimistic to expect a vast general readership, but the book deserves to do well. I hope that it will stimulate young medical graduates to get involved in neuropathology together with their elders and with many others, not always doctors. The nervous system does need the interest of all, but neuropathology cannot exist without neuropathologists.

IVAN JANOTA

## Common clinical problems

*Tutorials in Differential Diagnosis*. 2nd edn. E R Beck, J L Francis, and R L Souhami. (Pp 229; £7.50.) Pitman. 1982.

The elegant idea of taking a single symptom or sign and following it through its diagnostic paths and alleyways is common enough both in undergraduate tutorials and in clinical practice. To find this format in a book of just over 200 pages was welcomed with both surprise and relief when the first edition of this book appeared. Over the past eight years it has proved its worth, and the second edition will need little recommendation.

Just about every important clinical problem is dealt with individually—from cyanosis to coma, from palpitations to polyuria. Firstly the pathophysiology and then associated symptoms and signs suggesting a differential diagnosis are examined; special investigations are discussed where relevant, and each chapter ends with an illustrative case history. The chapters on palpitations, congestive heart failure, and peripheral oedema are particularly recommended to undergraduates for good accounts of subjects whose familiarity is often taken for granted. Those on visual failure, weakness of the legs, confusion, and dementia are seldom handled so successfully under a single cover.

Strong points are history taking, examination, and differential diagnosis, which need little updating, but the second edition attempts to correct some of the problems of the first by more sensible division of the material. The unbroken essay style is still sometimes difficult to follow, despite greater advantage being taken of breaks in the narrative. Changes in argument occur rapidly and clues to differential diagnosis are not neatly summarised but are scattered liberally from the first line. Perhaps such difficulties are inherent in trying to present "lateral thinking" in an ordered way. The text itself is virtually unchanged. A few deletions make the style more economical, including a notable omission from the chapter on dementia, which in the first edition suggested that "... the disability [mental deficiency and dementia] remains undetected longer in the female"—a concession to more than just style.

New material relates mainly to special investigations such as HLA typing and DNA binding and to disease associations like hepatitis B and polyarteritis. The section on disseminated intravascular coagulation has been expanded. Due account is taken of computed tomography where it has supplanted more conventional imaging techniques, and endoscopy, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, and coronary arteriography are discussed briefly. Short sections on pseudogout and idiopathic oedema appear for the first time. Case histories are

unchanged: they are good value, in style like those of the Membership examination, and interesting because they illustrate the difficulty of putting real clinical problems on paper. Patients usually have illnesses with several symptoms and signs that cannot be considered as single chapters of a book; perhaps case histories and chapters could be juggled without altering their relevance to one another.

HENRY MINTZ

## Personal view of mental illness

*A Synopsis of Psychiatry.* John Harding Price. (Pp 493; £15.) Wright PSG. 1982.

A book may be judged on its form, its content, and the extent to which it achieves its intended purpose. Dr Price's book is described as a synopsis and "as a condensed general view of the medical treatment of mental illness." Although it is produced with a small page and print size, however, it is a substantial work of nearly 500 pages and about a quarter of a million words. The intended readership is not clear, though "the student" and the "busy practitioner" are mentioned in the preface. The book is largely the work of Dr Price himself, with a chapter on child psychiatry by Dr Eva Frommer and one on mental retardation by Dr Brian Kirman.

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Dr Price takes us on a long rambling tour of psychiatry and his style and emphasis are idiosyncratic. This is a personal book and the "voice" of its author comes strongly from the page. His opinions are usually clear but sometimes clearly unusual—for instance, he states: "It is bad psychiatry to ask a patient if he has considered suicide. All people can be suicidal—and in a depressed frame of mind the patient may misinterpret the question as 'The psychiatrist feels my case is hopeless and he is suggesting or even recommending a way out of my problems.'" This certainly runs counter to the conventional wisdom that I was taught and now teach. The statement occurs in the two pages devoted to suicide and attempted suicide; this seems a rather meagre allocation compared to the five pages on the aetiology of homosexuality or the 25 pages about epilepsy. Senescence rates a chapter although it is only 14 lines long. A chapter on loneliness is of similar length and consists of two lists and a comment on folie à deux, folie à trois, and folie à communauté. Masturbation gets over two pages, which is more than the whole of the chapter on puerperal psychosis. I found this chapter difficult to follow but Dr Price seemed to state that the incidence of puerperal psychosis has fallen dramatically and that this reflects the increased tendency for hospital delivery and the availability of better contraception. Hyperemesis is mentioned as a "warning sign" that may "lead to toxæmia and hence the need to treat the psychological cause." It is all rather baffling. The section on obsessive compulsive neuroses is of reasonable length, but there are only 21 words on treatment; behavioural therapy is not mentioned.

As the guided tour unfolded I found myself questioning almost every page but, of course, the lecturer/author could not hear. Perhaps such a robust challenge to one's settled views and "knowledge" is a good thing if one can stay the course. Certainly the experienced psychiatrist will not fall asleep or relax in Dr Price's company. But can the book be recommended to someone wanting an introduction to modern psychiatry or even a pocket reference book? I regret that my answer must be an emphatic no.

R L PALMER

## In brief

The medical student who wishes to read about vascular disease has two principal sources of reference: the large comprehensive undergraduate textbooks and the equally large specialist books. The former usually confines itself to a description of atherosclerosis with just a passing mention of the many other forms of vascular disease. The latter contains far more information than the student requires and the basic facts are often difficult to find amidst the morass of "small print."

Dr Friedman and his co-authors have produced *Vascular Diseases* (Wright PSG, £31), a student textbook on vascular disease. They have presented the whole range of vascular disease by including topics such as the vasculitides, non-atherosclerotic forms of large vessel disease, vasospasm, venous disorders, medical management, and diagnostic techniques and not concentrating on direct vascular surgery. Next, they have been selective and pragmatic and present a balanced view that clearly reflects their extensive clinical experience. These attributes should be attractive to any student wishing to expand his knowledge of vascular problems. Before the student buys a book, however, he must pick it up from the bookshelf and be attracted to it, and here the book fails. It looks like many other small books, full of dull words, rarely and often poorly illustrated, and unstimulating. A modern format with more tables and diagrams and illustrations would have caught the eye and encouraged the student to read the excellent text. This book undoubtedly fills a gap in the student textbook market but the authors could give the presentation and format of the next edition a little "sparkle."

## Some new titles

### Nephrology and urology

*Current Nephrology*. Vol 5. Ed Harvey C Gonick. (Pp 412; £42.50.) John Wiley and Sons. 1982.

*Diagnosis and Management of Renal and Urinary Diseases*. J Michael Boulton Jones, J Douglas Briggs, and Timothy B Hargreave. (Pp 309; £10.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1982.

*Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy: New Aspects in the Treatment of Kidney Stone Disease*. Ed Ch Chaussey. (Pp 112; 65 figures; DM 60.) Karger. 1982.

*Prospective Studies in Science and Technology*. "Aspects of Biomedicine: Progress and Perspectives of Blood Detoxification." Report prepared for the Commission of European Communities, Directorate-General for Science, Research and Development as part of the FAST programme. Elvio Mantovani, Walter Marconi, and Rosanna Mosti. (Pp 193; £12.50.) Francis Pinter. 1982.

### Neurology

*Current Neurology*. Vol 4. Ed Stanley H Appel. (Pp 272; £46.75.) John Wiley and Sons. 1982.

*EEG in Clinical Practice*. John R Hughes. (Pp 235; £16.50.) Butterworths. 1982.

*Intensive Care for Neurological Trauma and Disease*. Ed Barth A Green, Lawrence F Marshall, and T J Gallagher. (Pp 392; index; £21.60.) Academic Press. 1982.

*Neurological Complications of Therapy: Selected Topics*. Ed Allen Silverstein. (Pp 465; index; \$66.85.) Futura. 1982.

*Recent Advances in Neuropathology*. No 2. Ed W Thomas Smith and J B Cavanagh. (Pp 301; £23.) Churchill Livingstone. 1982.

### Nutrition

*World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics*. Vol 40. "Nutrition Education and Modern Concepts of Food Assimilation." Ed Geoffrey H Bourne. (Pp 192; DM 195.) Karger. 1982.

### Obstetrics and gynaecology

*Boerhaave Series for Postgraduate Medical Education*. Vol 22. "Second Trimester Pregnancy Termination." Ed Marc J N C Keirse, Jack Bennebroek Gravenhorst, Dirk A F van Lith, and Mostyn P Embrey. (Pp 210; Dfl 115.) Leiden University Press. Distributed by Martinus Nijhoff. 1982.

*Clinics in Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. Vol 9. No 1. "Pregnancy Counselling in Obstetrics." Ed J M G Harley. (Pp 230; £10.75.) W B Saunders. 1982.

*Clinics in Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. Vol 9. No 2. "Obstetric Anaesthesia and Analgesia: Safer Practice." Ed Michael Rosen. (Pp 442; £10.75.) W B Saunders. 1982.

*The Cochleate Uterus (of Pozzi)*. M K Basu Mallik. (Pp 87; 150 rupees.) Naya Prokash. 1982.

*Contributions to Gynecology and Obstetrics*. Vol 9. "Morphological and Functional Aspects of Placental Dysfunction." Ed H Soma. (Pp 180; DM 153.) Karger. 1982.

*Current Therapy of Infertility 1982-83*. Ed Cels-Ramon Garcia, Luigi Mastroianni, jun, Richard D Amelar, and Lawrence Dublin. (Pp 258; £25.75.) B C Decker/Mosby. Distributed by YB Medical Publishers. 1982.

*Drug Therapy in Obstetrics and Gynecology*. Ed William F Rayburn and Frederick P Zuspan. (Pp 401; £30.80.) Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1982.

### Oncology

*Cancer Diagnosis: New Concepts and Techniques*. Ed Richard J Steckel and A Robert Kagan. (Pp 340; £22.80.) Academic Press. 1982.

*Cancer Therapy*. Ed David S Fischer and John C Marsh. (Pp 749; \$69.95.) G K Hall. 1982.

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